



May 23, 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Airport

The Airport sold 650.7 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 665 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 1211 gallons. Hanger rentals totaled \$450.00. The Airport Authority met on May 20th.

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections staff completed and certified a petition and documented all voters from the Primary who signed that they did not currently have picture identification. Initial preparations were completed for the Second Primary including sample ballots that can be found at <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/Sample>

Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department has issued 52 permits totaling \$6,031 in fees. These permits included a new cell tower in Golden Valley, a new real estate office in Rutherfordton and several new houses. Inspectors have conducted 153 inspections while continuing to do the bi-annual school inspections. The Director has continued to work with several other departments regarding the proposed creation of the Development Services Office and the proposed relocation of the Board of Elections.

Clerk to the Board

Rutherford County Commissioners, along with Rutherford Hospital, hosted a breakfast for emergency personnel on Monday morning at the Courtyard Room at Rutherford Hospital. There was a great attendance of emergency personnel in Rutherford County.

Commissioners attended a community meeting at Hicks Grove hosted by Horsehead on Monday evening.

Staff in the Commissioners' office attended a webinar regarding Meeting Mechanics presented by the School of Government on Tuesday. Commissioners met as the Airport Authority on Tuesday afternoon and some attended the Isothermal Community College graduation following the Airport Authority meeting.

Commissioner Owens attended a DSS Meeting on Wednesday morning. Chairman Eckler and Commissioner Richard attended the Board of E&R meeting also on Wednesday morning.

The Commissioners met Thursday with the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees at the Blue Room at Isothermal Community College. The trustees presented the requested budget of Isothermal Community College to the Board. Commissioner Owens participated in a tour of the college facilities prior to the meeting.

On Friday, Commissioner Owens attended a Mental Health Awareness meeting at the Holland House on Friday.

The Public Information Clerk attended the EMS Appreciation Breakfast, met with the Planning and Public Works Director and staff on the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail project and the upcoming public hearing about the Queens Gap water supply and service district. Three media releases and one public service announcement were sent out. The County's website has a new page: [Public Information/Media/News](#). Please take a moment to look through it and let Adrienne know if your department has related links that need to be added. She and the Contemporary Media Group will continue developing this page as new items are created. The final design of the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail decal has been sent to the fabricator and work continues on the signage for the Solid Waste Department. The PIC also participated in a webinar on "Meeting Mechanics." Three public records requests were received.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff attended the NC Cooperative Extension Centennial Celebration in Raleigh, conducted the monthly radio program and met with Extension & Community Association members.

The Ag Extension Agent completed the NC Cooperative Extension Centennial Exhibits preparation for Raleigh (5/19) and for Centennial Observance at Rutherford Farmers Market (5/17), promoted the Rutherford County Community Garden, networked with the Master Gardener volunteers and made 49 contacts.

Make It and
Take It
Workshops!



Home Canning & Freezing Made Easy Workshop

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Cooperative Extension, 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale

Day session – Instruction plus hands-on canning. Lunch on your own 12:00 – 1:00.

Evening session – Instruction only

\$15.00 Registration fee includes Ball Blue Book and all supplies. Call 287-6010 to register.

Free canner testing also available.



Dehydrating Made Easy Workshop

Enjoy
summer's
bounty all
year long!

Thursday, June 19, 2014

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cooperative Extension, 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale



Learn to dry fruits, vegetables, meats, and herbs.

Registration is required, please call 287-6010

Cost: \$5.00

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Tracy Davis, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences at 828.287.6010 or Tracy_Davis@ncsu.edu or fax – 828.288.4036, or in person at the County Extension Office at least 10 days prior to the event.

County Manager

The County Manager began the week at the EMS Appreciation Breakfast, then attended a site visit at the Courthouse and met with the Revenue Director. He held his weekly meetings with the Solid Waste, Planning and Economic Development Directors and had additional meetings with the County Attorney and Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Director. The County Manager attended meetings of the Airport Authority, Isothermal Community College and school's budget team, Smoky Mountain Center Board of Directors and Department of Social Services. He continued working with the Finance Officer on the budget for FY2014-15.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Commission Executive Director met with the County Manager to review economic development activities; attended a Horsehead Metal Products sponsored community meeting at Hicks Grove Church; attended the NCDOT Strategic Transportation Corridors meeting in Morganton; prepared and participated in the EDC Board monthly meeting; attended the Business Expo at the Foundation; and met with the Town of Forest City and AdvantageWest to review industrial recruitment opportunities.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; scheduled and attended the Business Advancement Team meeting held at East Rutherford High School to tour CTE classes; worked on compilation of Business and Industry Resource Guide; scheduled and attended an existing industry visit with a partner/ally; and attended Rutherford Business Showcase event.

The Economic Development Assistant attended the "Minutes Mechanics" seminar at the Annex; assisted in the assembly and submittal of additional information required by NC Department of Commerce in response to an RFI submitted; distributed a press release on an existing business existing; and revised and formatted the minutes from the EDC Board meeting.

Finance

The Finance Officer attended SOG Open Meetings webinar. The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the College's Budget Workshop with the Commissioners and ICC Board. The Finance Officer met with the County Manager to review details of the School and College's budget requests and other County items that need further review. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director responded to one search for a missing juvenile in Union Mills who was located quickly by fire department personnel, completed additional Emergency Management Performance Grant activities, attended Taser training, performed maintenance on the fire safety house and provided assistance to several fire departments with equipment purchases related to the Office of State Fire Marshal grant.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director attended meetings with Angela Ezell, Danny Searcy, and attended the HR Association meeting at Isothermal Community College. The topic discussed at the HR Association meeting was changes in the Affordable Care Act. The HR Specialist attended the HR Association meeting also, as well as, viewed a webinar on Public Records. The Director held a meeting with one upcoming retiree this week and processed all paperwork. The Director also served as a judge for the Senior Projects at Chase High School. A representative from CFNC (College Foundation of NC) will present a college savings plan to employees on June 12. Current job openings posted are: part time TDA Welcome Center, Paralegal for the Revenue Department, and Food Service Assistant for the Senior Center. View county website to apply. Interviews have been scheduled for all positions. A Wellness Fair is being planned for July 29th with a lot of helpful information being presented. More information will be sent out closer to date.

Don't forget Owls night for County employees is June 20, 2014. Call Christina at 828-245-0000 for ticket information.

Monday, May 26th is Memorial Day and County Offices will be closed in observance. Please keep those who fought for our great nation in your prayers as we observe this time!!



Rutherford County Services Employee Night

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014

Gates Open at 6:30pm

Game starts at 7:30pm

The Forest City Owls are hosting a Rutherford County Services Employee Night for all county employees to come out with their families to enjoy a night out with the Owls. Each county employee can take advantage of our group rate of \$5 per person for our June 20th game. The \$5 ticket is for our premium reserved seat that is located under our awning and with large fans to keep cool. County employees can purchase their tickets online, email Christina@forestcitybaseball.com, or call Christina at 828-245-0000.

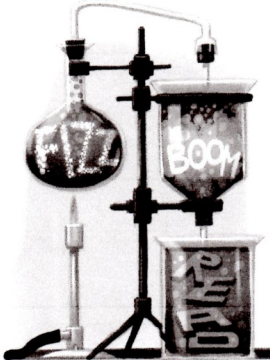
To purchase online go to: <https://cplbaseball.wufoo.com/forms/rutherford-county-employee-night/>

Information Technology

The IT Department has been a little short this week as four staff members have been at the NCLGISA conference in Wilmington. As always, it was a great conference and they are coming back with many great ideas of new technology software and hardware. The Department has closed 44 work orders this week. The Commissioners and Board of Trustees had their budget meeting at ICC, which IT staff recorded. Weekly teleconferences on the new Tax software and on the phone system have continued this week. The County Offices staff took lunch to Judy Toney who broke her leg. Please be in prayer for Judy and Dave as he is also going through testing for health issues.

Library

This is the last week of Story Time before summer, and the children are learning about the five senses—complete with year-end parties. Outreach programs were at Forrest Hunt Elementary School. In addition, the Juvenile Guide has been updated and posted in the Children's Room. The Haynes Branch proctored a 5 hour test for a student from Southern Columbia University of Alabama on Thursday. Kenneth Odom is attending The Library Corporation's users meeting in Southern Pines this week.



2014 Rutherford County Libraries Summer Reading Program

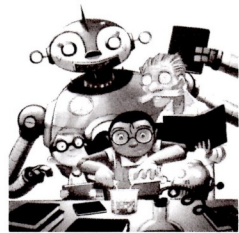
**Free Programs for ages 2-12
each Tuesday (except July 4 week)**

9:30 am	Haynes Branch Library (141 N. Main St., Henrietta, 657-9110)
12:30 pm	Rutherford County Library (255 Callahan-Koon Rd, Spindale 287-6115)
3:30 pm	Mountains Branch Library (150 Bill's Creek Road, Lake Lure 625-0456)

June 17	Vicky Town—Nationally-known Comedic Storyteller and "Parents' Choice" Award Winner (www.vickytown.com) * also at 7:00 p.m.—Teens' Comedy Improv Workshop at Rutherford County Library
June 24	Steve Brogan—Ventriloquist (www.stevebrogan.com)
July 1	No Program
July 8	Noah's Landing Traveling Zoo with numerous exotic animals (www.noahslanding2x2.com)
July 15	Zelnik the Magician (www.zelnikthemagician.com) * also at 7:00 p.m.—"Tales From Beyond" Magic Show for Teens at Rutherford County Library
July 22	Mad Science Stage Show (www.madscience.org)
July 29	Summer Reading Celebration Party with program by Miss Jeannie

Summer Reading Club

Reading is vital to the Summer Reading Program. Set your own goals. Get a Contract and Reading Record at the library and return by July 22. Read at or above your level and to preschoolers. Write titles completed on the Record. Certificates and prizes to be awarded at the final program July 29.



Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department garage had 7 preventative maintenance service calls, 11 repairs, 5 tire service calls and 4 other repairs/inspections. Maintenance completed 38 work orders, repairs and grounds keeping of all County facilities. The Project Manager continues making progress with the community grant projects and Biggerstaff property. We anticipate sharing updates with the Commissioners on these two projects during their July meeting. This week the Planning Board met and reviewed a small revision to an existing subdivision along with hearing updates on Queens Gap, Greyrock and the Community grants. The Director has been involved in multiple meetings across County functions in an effort to continue progressing in facilities improvements, budget, and planning projects in addition to follow up with contractors, architects and citizens for ongoing projects that are underway. I am pleased to note that construction activities on the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail have begun and are expected to be completed by mid- June. We have a site plan for the Proposed Henrietta EMS and Library and continue progress with the architect on these projects. This week we've also researched the possibility of a joint facilities study of all buildings belonging to the RC Schools, ICC and the County.

Grey Rock is nearing the end. The paving project recently completed now allows driving on asphalt from one end of the project to the other. Project 10 should be completed in early June and we will advertise to pave it along with the portion of Project 8 that hasn't been paved. Project 11 will start as soon as the waste material location has been finalized with the property owner and the HOA. Hopefully that can be finalized within the next week or two.

Queen's Gap Project 1 should be completed by the end of May. We have had to revise the project schedule due to the delays from weather and the difficulties of Project 1. Projects 2 and 3 should proceed simultaneously once Project 1 is completed since we have two different contractors on this project. Also, the waterline plans should be submitted for approval within the next week or two. Plans are being finalized with BRWA and, once we hear back from the State, we will advertise and go to bid. This is a large project worth over \$4,000,000.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 18 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$50.00, processed 223 real estate records with \$13,589 received in cash, and processed 130 vitals, receiving \$1,850. A total of 371 transactions were made with a total of \$15,489 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 620 phone calls, and assisted 200 citizens who came in to the office (3 being PUV). 18 deeds were recorded and 116 were transferred. 34 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 2 splits and created 4 new maps. 5 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 164 addresses was updated. Appraisers completed 224 field reviews and 59 permit visits. Electronic payments consisted of 25 by credit/debit, 28 by website, and 5 by phone. 190 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 30 garnishments, 6 attachments, 22 employee lists, and 11 payment plans. 23 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 2 plat reviews, 1 data request, 65 bankruptcy payments/issues, 50 car bill issues, 1 pre-permit, 5 discoveries, 34 releases, and 14 refunds. 75 pieces of mail were received and processed. 3 BER appeal letters were mailed out. 8 exemption applications were processed. We completed 745 listings and finished 5447 August Motor Vehicle renewals.

Senior Center

The Senior Center has continued to celebrate Older Americans Month this week with several different activities. Barbara Hill, Program/Activity Coordinator, took a group of seniors on Sunday to the Green Room Theater in Newton to see “Rex’s Exes”. On Tuesday, Gerry Roberts demonstrated a variety of beautiful flowers and shared several creative and unique ways for displaying and arranging them to celebrate “Gifts from the Garden” month. On Wednesday the Senior Pen Pals traveled to Spindale Elementary to wish their pen pals a happy and safe summer. Tim Francis and Josh Francis from Woodmen of the World came on Thursday to present a special program on “Advance Planning, Retirement Income, and Final Expenses”. We had the Royal Quartet scheduled on Friday for a gospel singing, but we had to reschedule this to a later date.

Social Services

The Social Services Department’s Income Maintenance Staff remain challenged and busy, yet determined, as the implementation continues. Conference calls are held each Wednesday at 3:00 pm. These calls alternate focusing on system issues and high level management issues. We continue to receive reports weekly outlining case processing. Food and Nutrition Services continues to run smoothly at this time with Medicaid being the biggest challenge. The State has a new NC FAST Director and we are encouraged by many of the changes that have been made since she began.

On Monday, the Director and Program Manager attended a meeting with Northwoods representatives, Dustin Eubanks and Gary Heinz; the County Manager; and the County IT Director to continue discussions regarding the proposed Case Management System for Children's Services Programs. The Director and Adult Services Staff met with DSS Attorney, Merri Oxley, regarding a guardianship consumer and to prepare for a court hearing. On Tuesday, the Rutherford County Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team (CCPT/CFPT) met at DSS. This month the meeting was dedicated to the review of four child fatalities. Any child death that occurs in the county is reviewed by the team approximately one year after the death occurs. Also on Tuesday, Foster Care Staff attended a conference call regarding IV-E funding issues and the State IV-E audit which will occur later in the year. On Wednesday, the Director and Program Manager attended a meeting with the County Attorney and DSS Attorney to discuss DSS court issues; also, the staff attended a Work Support Strategies (WSS) Conference Call. The State is in the final year of the WSS grant and is developing plans to sustain the initiative. On Thursday, staff attended the State Fiscal Conference Call, and the Director and Adult Services Supervisor attended a meeting with the County Transit Director regarding Medicaid Transportation staffing issues.

Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department’s Admin/Education Specialist attended Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors at the UNC School of Government and continued work on end of year reports.

The Ag Cost Share Technician worked on spot checks, end of year reports, revised Agriculture Cost share worksheets for the next program year and gave technical advice on Agriculture Cost share practice for request for payment.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 357 customers, hauled 66 loads from convenience centers, shipped 32 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The Director attended the weekly solid waste meeting, meeting on MSW study and a meeting with the Assistant Finance Officer on budget review. Also the Director enjoyed a tour of the Omni-Source plant. This tour was designed to see where the county's metal went and how it was properly destroyed and recycled. The Director continues to work on the textile recycling contract with the County Attorney and Manager. The rest of the staff continues to perform everyday job duties while continuing the upkeep at the centers. Staff has built and installed a new set of steps for the oil container at Golden Valley convenience center. The State Inspector dropped by for a brief visit this week.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follow.

Open cases 9

Convenience center cases 3

Non convenience center cases 6

Community Service workers 5

Community Service reports 1

Everyone please remember to recycle.

Tourism Development Authority

The TDA board held its monthly meeting and reviewed the budget. In addition, the Wayfinding Committee made its final draft presentations in two areas of the county. The new marketing team paid another information-gathering visit to our county.

Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department's **EMS** responded to 150 emergency calls and 48 convalescent calls. This week we have celebrated our EMT's with events during the national EMS Appreciation Week. Employees have enjoyed a picnic and open house at the main station in Spindale, breakfast hosted by Rutherford Regional, and breakfast daily served by the Shift Supervisors and Administrative staff. Congratulations to paramedic Phillip Hill who was named Paramedic of the Year by his peers. Also, a new ambulance arrived on Thursday and will go into service once the radio and MDT are installed.

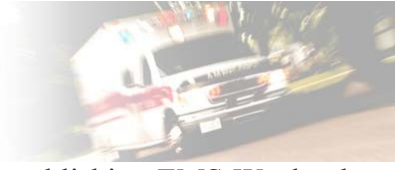
Transit drove 10,431 miles, completed 1,055 local trips and 77 out of county trips, transported 273 unduplicated passengers and collected \$15,856 in revenue. Staff have been preparing for MDT installation and training next week as tablets are installed in all vehicles. Once the tablets are fully operational, Transit will move to a paperless system. The Transit Advisory Board also held their quarterly meeting this past week and discussed possible ways to better utilize funds for employment transportation.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Office had 123 mail-ins, 79 mail-outs, 108 telephone contacts, and 214 veteran contacts.

The Memorial Day Celebration will be Monday in Forest City at 11am.

EMS Week History



“The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) was instrumental in establishing EMS Week when President Gerald Ford declared November 3 – 10, 1974 as the first “National Emergency Medical Services Week.” This annual observance continued for four more years and was then reinstituted by ACEP in 1982. Around this time the observance of EMS Week was moved to September. In 1992 EMS Week was again moved to be the 3rd week in May. The move was made to separate EMS Week from Fire Prevention week in October. The rationale for the move was the majority of fire and EMS services felt having the two events back to back hurt the effectiveness of each program so EMS Week was moved to May.

ACEP began collecting and distributing ideas and information for EMS Week in the early 1980’s. Professionally printed and prepared EMS Week Planning kits were developed starting in the late 1980’s. Today 25,000 EMS Week Planning Guides are distributed free of charge to EMS services, fire departments, rescue squads, volunteer groups, and emergency departments across the country. The 48 page guide contains ideas for local EMS Week activities and highlights EMS Week programs held by EMS services during the previous year.”
[Excerpt from the American College of Emergency Physicians]

Images from left to right:

2014 Paramedic of the Year—Phillip Hill and Supervisor Crystal Suttle
EMS Appreciation Breakfast— Paramedics Kathleen Hartnett and Samantha Golovner
EMS Open House and Picnic



County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman
Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens
Roger Richard

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney



Stay connected!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov

